

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

\* \* \*

Kassity Amber Higgins,

Plaintiff,

v.

Andrew Saul,

Defendant.

Case No. 2:20-cv-00918-BNW

**ORDER**

This case involves judicial review of administrative action by the Commissioner of Social Security, denying Plaintiff's claim for Social Security benefits. The Court recognizes that many of these cases have many factors in common:

1. Such cases rarely, if ever, require proceedings a trial. Instead, these cases are usually resolved by cross-motions to reverse or remand and to affirm the Commissioner's decision.
2. The transcript of the evidence adduced at the administrative hearing frequently contains the words, "inaudible" or "illegible" in some places, and the administrative record sometimes contains documents which are illegible. These parts of the administrative record may or may not relate to the question of whether the Commissioner's decision is supported by substantial evidence.
3. These cases are assigned to a United States District Judge and/or United States Magistrate Judge in accordance with General Order 2019-08.

1 In light of these factors, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

2 1. If Defendant has not already done so, Defendant must file the administrative  
3 record, under seal, in CM/ECF within seven days of the filing of this Order.

4 2. If Plaintiff requests a remand of this case on the basis of new evidence, then  
5 Plaintiff must, within thirty days of the filing of this Order, file a motion to remand based on new  
6 evidence. The new evidence must be attached to the motion. A copy of the motion and evidence  
7 must be served on:

8 United States Attorney  
9 501 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Suite 1100  
10 Las Vegas, NV 89101

11 3. If Plaintiff files a motion for remand on the basis of new evidence, then Defendant  
12 may file either (i) a notice of voluntary remand of the case, or (ii) points and authorities in  
13 opposition to Plaintiff's motion. Defendant's notice of voluntary remand or opposition must be  
14 filed within thirty days of service of the motion. If Defendant files points and authorities in  
15 opposition, Plaintiff has twenty days from the date of service of such points and authorities to file  
16 a reply.

17 4. Under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g), remand for reconsideration of new evidence will not be  
18 granted unless the evidence is new and material and there is a showing of good cause for failure  
19 to incorporate the evidence into the record at an earlier stage. Therefore, if Plaintiff seeks remand  
20 for consideration of new evidence, the motion must include a statement of reasons why the new  
21 evidence was not incorporated into the record at an earlier stage.

22 5. If Plaintiff does not file a motion for remand on the basis of new medical evidence,  
23 the Plaintiff must, within thirty days of the filing of this Order, file a motion for reversal and/or  
24 remand.

25 6. If Plaintiff files a motion for reversal and/or remand, Plaintiff's motion must  
26 include:  
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1           a.       A specification of each and every condition or ailment, or combination of  
2 the two, that allegedly renders Plaintiff disabled and is supported by evidence contained in the  
3 administrative record.

4           b.       A complete summary of all medical evidence in the record that supports  
5 Plaintiff's claim of disability due to each condition or ailment with precise references to the  
6 applicable portions of the record. The summary must not include medical evidence unrelated to  
7 the conditions or ailments on which Plaintiff's claim or claims of disability are based.

8           c.       A complete summary of all other evidence adduced at the administrative  
9 hearing that supports Plaintiff's claim with precise references to the applicable portions of the  
10 record.

11           d.       A complete but concise statement as to why the record does not contain  
12 substantial evidence to support the Administrative Law Judge's decision.

13       7.       If Defendant has not filed a notice of voluntary remand, within thirty days after  
14 being served with Plaintiff's motion for reversal and/or remand, Defendant must file a cross-  
15 motion to affirm, which will be considered an opposition to Plaintiff's motion. This motion must  
16 include:

17           a.       A complete summary of all evidence in the record that Defendant contends  
18 constitutes substantial evidence to support the administrative determination that Plaintiff is not  
19 entitled to the benefits in question.

20           b.       A complete summary of all testimony adduced at the administrative  
21 hearing, including the Administrative Law Judge's findings, if any, concerning the credibility of  
22 witnesses, which Defendant contends constitutes substantial evidence to support the  
23 administrative determination that Plaintiff is not entitled to the benefits in question.

24           c.       A statement as to whether there are any inaccuracies in Plaintiff's  
25 summaries. If Defendant believes Plaintiff's summaries are inaccurate, Defendant must set forth  
26 what additions or corrections are required (with appropriate references to the record) to make the  
27 summaries accurate.

1           8.       The motions filed by Plaintiff and Defendant under paragraphs 6 and 7 of this  
2 Order, respectively, must also contain points and authorities dealing with the specific legal issues  
3 involved in this case, rather than principles of law applicable to Social Security cases in general.

4           9.       Plaintiff will be deemed to have acceded to the accuracy of the summaries  
5 supplied by Defendant under subparagraphs 7(a) and 7(b) of this Order unless within twenty days  
6 after being served with Defendant's cross-motion to affirm Plaintiff files and serves a response  
7 brief setting forth:

8               a.       In what manner the summaries are inaccurate;  
9               b.       What additions or corrections are required (with appropriate references to  
10 the record) to make the summaries accurate.

11          10.       The motions filed by both Plaintiff and Defendant must also contain the following:

12               a.       A statement as to whether the transcript of the administrative hearing can  
13 be adequately comprehended in spite of the fact that such transcript may contain the words  
14 "inaudible" or "unintelligible" in one or more places, and specifying each page, if any, in which  
15 testimony relating to the particular issues of this case cannot be adequately comprehended.

16               b.       A specification of each page in the administrative record that is partially or  
17 totally illegible, and a statement whether each such illegible page contains information relevant to  
18 an understanding of any issue presented in this case.

19               c.       Any stipulations by the parties regarding the portions of the record, if any,  
20 that the parties agree were fairly and accurately summarized by the Administrative Law Judge  
21 and therefore do not require repetition in the parties' briefs. Even if the parties agree the entire  
22 record was fairly and accurately summarized by the Administrative Law Judge, the parties still  
23 must include sufficient factual background in their briefs to provide the Court with context to  
24 understand the parties' arguments.

25          11.       Oral argument will be deemed waived and the case will stand submitted unless the  
26 Court orders otherwise. A party who requests oral argument must file a request under Local Rule  
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1 78-1 within ten days following the filing of the last document required by this Order. It is within  
2 the Court's discretion whether to permit oral argument.

3 12. A party's failure to file a motion or points and authorities required by this Order  
4 may result in dismissal of the action or reversal of the Commissioner of Social Security's  
5 decision.

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7 DATED: November 13, 2020

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10 BREND A WEKSLER  
11 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
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